United Nations A/C.2/64/SR.1

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
23 October 2009

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 17 September 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Park In-kook ..... (Republic of Korea)

Contents

Election of the Bureau

Statement by the Chairperson

Organization of work

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

09-52486 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Election of the Bureau

1. **The Chairperson** said that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure, the following candidates had been endorsed to serve as the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee for its sixty-fourth session: Mr. Diallo (Guinea), endorsed by the Group of African States; Mr. García González (El Salvador), endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Mr. Mićić (Serbia), endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States. For the office of Rapporteur, the candidacy of Ms. McQuade (Ireland) had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

2. *Mr. Diallo (Guinea), Mr. García González (El Salvador) and Mr. Mićić (Serbia) were elected Vice-Chairpersons and Ms. McQuade (Ireland) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

3. **The Chairperson** recalled that no procedures were currently in place to ensure the equitable rotation of the post of Rapporteur among the regional groups. The Committee should therefore consider coming to an understanding regarding the details for such equitable rotation in the coming weeks.

Statement by the Chairperson

4. **The Chairperson** said that, during the main part of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, the Committee had used 82 per cent of its allocated conference resources and had lost over 23 hours owing to late starting and early adjournment of meetings. While the Committee had thus improved on its statistics for the sixty-second session, he intended to ensure that the Committee made a further improvement at the current session.

5. In that connection, the Committee's meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If there were few or no speakers inscribed for a particular meeting, the time and the conference services should be utilized either for negotiations or for meetings of interest groups. In view of the limited time available and the new working methods in place, it was important for the Committee to function more efficiently and to maximize the use of its time.

6. The list of speakers for both the Committee's general debate and the agenda items allocated to it was now open. Delegations were requested to inscribe as soon as possible to enable the Committee to plan its work more efficiently. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers, unless it had made arrangements to change places with another delegation.

7. He suggested that speakers should be limited to 10 minutes for the general debate and 7 minutes for statements under individual agenda items, with some flexibility for the representatives of interest groups. He urged speakers to confine themselves to the salient points of their statements and to provide copies of longer statements for distribution. Similarly, introductions by the Secretariat should be limited to 10 minutes. Representatives of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes were explicitly requested to focus their statements on selected issues of concern to them and, if possible, to provide copies of their statements for distribution. He intended to notify all speakers when their time was running out.

8. He drew attention to the Committee's proposed organization of work as contained in document A/C.2/64/L.1, which was largely based on the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 58/316 and decision 62/543, as well as the recommendations of the Bureaux of the Committee at the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of the General Assembly.

9. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) informed the Committee of a potential change to the draft programme of work and noted that any modifications necessary to the organization of work, pursuant to decisions of the General Committee, would be reflected in a revised document to be issued as A/C.2/64/L.1/Rev.1. For ease of reference, the Secretariat had also circulated the proposed organization of work in tabular form.

10. **The Chairperson** noted that the agenda items to be allocated to the Second Committee by the General Assembly would be contained in a letter from the President of the General Assembly, which would be issued as document A/C.2/64/1.

11. He recalled several important changes in working methods adopted by the Committee. Draft resolutions under the various agenda items would be negotiated and adopted by the Committee throughout the session, rather than at the end. Delegations were therefore requested to do their utmost to facilitate the adoption

of draft proposals by the deadlines recommended in document A/C.2/64/L.1. As noted in the guidelines for the submission of draft proposals for processing by the Secretariat which had been circulated, the Secretariat required 48 hours to process and issue draft proposals. Unless such modalities were respected, the Committee ran the risk of returning to its much-criticized past practice.

12. In the spirit of General Assembly resolution 50/227, draft resolutions should continue to be more concise and action-oriented.

13. Since informal negotiations would be held early in the session, facilitators must be appointed and draft proposals submitted on time. He urged those interested in facilitating negotiations or submitting draft proposals to respect the deadlines that were being recommended. If necessary, he would consider scheduling informal consultations prior to the adoption of draft proposals at the recommendation of the Bureau.

14. Time had been set aside in the draft programme of work for a number of special events in which prominent experts would be invited to discuss some of the most pressing challenges facing the world, including achieving the Millennium Development Goals, combating climate change and ensuring food security. Interpretation for the special events would be on an "if available" basis.

15. **Mr. Seth** (Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination) said that the special events had been designed to facilitate a proactive dialogue between Committee members and a broad range of experts, including specialists from academia and civil society. As such, their primary purpose was to enable Committee members to take decisions and adopt resolutions on an informed basis.

16. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the full list of special events scheduled to take place in the form of panel discussions. Other issues suggested by Member States for discussion included the legal empowerment of the poor, global social protection, and migration and development. In selecting the speakers and moderators for the panels, he stressed that every effort would be made to balance the interests of all groups of States.

17. He recalled that two key elements were required for the successful completion of the Committee's programme of work. One was discipline in honouring the deadlines for submission of draft proposals indicated in the organization of work document (A/C.2/64/L.1). The other was the full utilization of time in between the consideration of items for delegations to prepare draft proposals, establish group positions or conduct informal consultations.

Organization of work

18. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to consider the draft programme of work annexed to document A/C.2/64/L.1. The general debate was scheduled to take place from 5 to 7 October 2009. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs would address the Committee before the opening of the general debate. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was 24 November 2009, which might be adjusted, however, in the light of the decision by the General Assembly to hold its fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development on 23 and 24 November 2009. The target date was based on the time required for the Committee's reports to be processed and issued as documents for consideration by the General Assembly prior to its recess, and for the Fifth Committee to be seized of the Committee's recommendations.

19. With regard to the target date of 24 November 2009, he recalled that during the previous session, in addition to its primary duties, the Committee had been responsible for preparing for the Doha Review Conference, which had included negotiating the draft outcome document. However, despite an already heavy workload, the Committee had been able to accomplish the bulk of its work prior to the Conference. Similarly, the Committee would be faced with time constraints during the current session in the light of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. He would therefore spare no effort in ensuring that the Committee completed its work on time. He trusted that he would have delegations' full cooperation in that regard.

20. **Ms. Osman** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted that the Group had requested additional time to consider both the note by the Secretary-General on innovative sources of financing for development (A/59/272), including the possibility of introducing a sub-item in order to consider that document, and the report of the

Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/64/253).

21. The Group welcomed the informative nature of special events and supported the efforts under way to find a balance in terms of the list of speakers invited to participate in those discussions. In that connection, the Group requested the inclusion of additional side events to discuss three important issues: commodities, the status of negotiations at the World Trade Organization and global public health.

22. **Mr. Fries** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the decision to address such priority issues as the legal empowerment of the poor within the context of special events. At the same time, he stressed that it was also important for the Bureau to take into account the already heavy workload facing delegations.

23. The European Union fully supported the working methods adopted by the Committee, which had improved in recent years. All Committee members should work to continue that positive trend. It was particularly important to conclude the Committee's work on schedule, before Thanksgiving Day, since both the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference and the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation were due to be held shortly thereafter.

24. **Mr. Sauma** (Mexico) said that his delegation agreed that it was important for the Committee to have additional time to discuss the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries. His delegation was also grateful to the Bureau for the flexibility that it had shown in accommodating the forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development. Finally, it supported the suggestion that the Committee's work should be concluded before Thanksgiving Day.

25. **Ms. Navarro Barro** (Cuba) said that it would be extremely useful for all delegations to have an updated list of the proposed events and keynote speakers for the special events. In that connection, it was important to ensure equitable representation of countries of the South in the list of keynote speakers. Her delegation also stressed that the issue of trade should be discussed in the context of a special event.

26. **The Chairperson** said he took it that the Committee wished to approve the draft programme of work annexed to document A/C.2/64/L.1, as orally revised, on the understanding that it might have to be adjusted further as the session progressed.

27. *It was so decided.*

28. **The Chairperson** drew attention to document A/C.2/64/L.1/Add.1, the annex to which provided information on the status of documentation before the Committee as at 11 September 2009.

29. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, as in previous years, the Committee would have at its disposal "QuickPlace", a secure online shared workspace. Instructions on the use of the tool and a registration form had been circulated.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.